



503.28546CC9

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: M. KOJIMA, et al.  
Application No: 09/917,912  
Filed: July 31, 2001  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROCESSING  
SAMPLES  
Group: 1756  
Examiner: M. Angebranndt

**SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114  
(AMENDMENT)**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 16, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 16, 2004, and concurrently with the filing of a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal, please amend the above-identified application as listed in the following, and as set forth on the following pages:

Amendments to the Claims; and

Remarks are included following the amendments.

**RECEIVED**  
**AUG 19 2004**  
**TC 1700**